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TEN CENTS A WEEK

SENATOR SMOOT BEGINS DEFENSE

Committee Room Crowded During The Trial.

MOST OF SPECTATORS WOMEN

William McConnell Was First Witness and Told About the Political Status of Affairs in Utah and Other Mormon Communities.

Washington, Jan. 12.—The defense in the Senator Reed Smoot investigation was begun today. The room of the senate committee on privileges and elections was as crowded as during the progress of the inquiry into the secrets of the Mormon church, which was conducted by the attorney for the Protestants against Senator Smoot retaining his seat. Most of the spectators were women.

Senator Knox, recently appointed a member of the committee, attended the hearing today for the first time.

William J. McConnell, of northern Idaho, was the first witness called. The examination was conducted by Waldeemar Van Cott, of Salt Lake, who is associated with A. S. Worthington, of Washington, as counsel of Senator Smoot. Mr. McConnell described his occupation as former merchant, politician and lawyer for his friends. He was a senator of the fifty-first congress and was governor of Idaho from 1893 to 1896, inclusive serving two successive terms.

He is a member of the Presbyterian church. The witness was asked to describe the political conditions and took up early days when he said he had lobbied before the legislature when the first effort was made to disfranchise the Mormons. He declared that he was prejudiced against Mormons, but that he found that most of the Gentiles were practicing "the science, which in our country is called politics." He said he had never known Mormons to gamble and drink. He followed this testimony with a review of his acquaintance with Mormons during the agitation against the religion in Idaho. He assisted in bringing about the repeal of the test oath among the Mormons on a lecture tour. He had observed the people, he said, and their morals was of a high, praiseworthy character.

Senator Knox asked counsel to inform him as to what part of the case the examination of Mr. McConnell was relevant. Mr. Worthington said he was unable to answer that conundrum, but that a great mass of irrelevant testimony was admitted for the Protestants to which objection had been made and overruled. He said the testimony of Mr. McConnell was in reply to this and particularly to that of Charles H. Jackson, chairman of the Idaho Democratic committee, who testified that no candidate for office, Democrat or Republican, could stand against the Mormon church. The witness was asked concerning the charges of the Mormon vote being cast for Gooding in his canvass for governor and said he was surprised that any Mormons had voted the Democratic ticket. He gave as one reason that he had challenged Senator Dubois to a public debate and received an answer declining the invitation on the ground that he could not afford time to debate with any one who was not a candidate for office in the party which was "defending criminals, as he believed the Mormons to be." He submitted a lithographed reproduction of Senator Dubois' letter. "Was that letter personal to you?" asked Senator Dubois.

"It was an answer to my challenge. It was not marked personal."

"Well, all right," the senator started to reply, and stopped, abruptly dismissing the subject. Senator McConnell objected to political discussions, and when the witness digressed to say that Democrats left their party following the election of President Cleveland, the senator asked the witness to confine himself to the question of whether the Mormons interfered in politics. Mr. McConnell repeated a number of reasons why the Democratic party was benefited by the Mormon

church, saying that one of the principal causes was that Senator Dubois called the Mormons criminals.

CHADWICK JEWELS LOCATED.

It is Said Woman Paid No Duty on the Gems.

Cleveland, O., Jan. 12.—Officials of the customs department have succeeded in locating more than \$60,000 worth of diamonds and jewels owned by Mrs. Chadwick, upon which, it is declared, no duty was paid when they were brought into this country from Europe. Most of these valuables, it is said, are in the hands of persons in this city, who hold them as security for loans made to Mrs. Chadwick.

Sheriff Mulhern stated today that H. B. Skadden, who, according to a dispatch from Jacksonville, Fla., is there as a deputy sheriff from this city in connection with the Chadwick case, has no official connection whatever with the sheriff's office. Mr. Mulhern said Skadden is not a deputy sheriff.

Jewels May Be in Florida.

Jacksonville, Fla., Jan. 12.—H. B. Skadden, who claims to be a deputy sheriff of Cyhoga county, O., is here from Cleveland and presumably interested in the Chadwick case. Mr. Skadden arrived here several days ago and has been keeping very quiet. Today it was learned that he is here on business and that the Chadwick diamonds and jewelry may be in Jacksonville.

WRECK ON COAST LINE.

Spreading Rails Causes Train to Leave the Track.

Savannah, Ga., Jan. 12.—Spreading rails this morning caused the wreck of three cars of the New York and Florida special of the Atlantic Coast Line, 34 miles north of Savannah, near Ridgeland, S. C., on its first trip south. A number of persons were injured, and one, Flagman J. W. Mosely, of Salters, S. C., may die.

The rails spread because section hands were placing in new ties. The section men failed to flag the train as they should have done. The engine and three cars, strange to say, passed over the dangerous place safely, but the rear three cars, which were coaches and baggage car—the train coming into Savannah from Charleston reversed—failed to cross.

They were thrown upon their sides down a 3-foot embankment, where the occupants were imprisoned for half an hour while, with axes, the uninjured trainmen and male passengers made openings for their exit.

HIGH WAGES ON THE CANAL.

Steam Shovel and Dredge Union Fixes Scale.

Chicago, Jan. 12.—At the annual meeting of the association of Union and Steam Shovel and Dredge men today a wage scale for Panama canal workmen who are members of the union was decided as follows.

Engineers, \$250; crane men, \$200; firemen, \$100 per month.

Transportation to and from Panama an full time when sick, eight hours to constitute a day's work, time and one-half for overtime, double time for Sundays, working days of the month to constitute a month's work; should death occur or a man be totally disabled, transportation back to be United States to be at the expense of the government or company employing the men. After a man has given satisfaction for eight months he is to be entitled to a leave of absence under full pay for six weeks and to be furnished special railroad rates for his family and self.

Gems Valued at \$5,000 Stolen.

New York, Jan. 12.—A general alarm for jewels valued at more than \$5,000, stolen last Saturday from the home of Mrs. Marino G. Paoli, the contractor who is macadamizing the roads of Cuba, was sent out by the police, Tuesday. The robbery was committed while the family was at dinner, between 6:30 and 7:45 p. m. The thief entered the house with a skeleton key and the manner is similar to that of several recent robberies in the section. The jewels consisted of six diamond rings, two turquoise rings, a gold watch and chain, and Mrs. Paoli's wedding ring.

BOILER EXPLODES; TWO MEN KILLED

Locomotive Attached To Fast Express Blows Up.

CAUSE OF EXPLOSION UNKNOWN

Train Was Standing Still at a Station Aside from Wrecking of the Engine. None of the Other Equipment Was Damaged.

Cleveland, O., Jan. 12.—The boiler of a locomotive attached to the east-bound fast express on the Erie blew up while standing at the Cresto Ohio station today, killing the engineer and fireman instantly, and badly injuring another motorman, who was riding in the engine cab.

The dead:

Frederick Keller, engineer, Gallon, Ohio.

The injured:

Joseph Newman, Elmira, N. Y., will probably die.

The cause of the explosion is not known. The train carried express cars only. Aside from the engine, which was completely demolished, none of the equipment was damaged. Traffic was blocked for four hours following the accident.

ALL INSURANCE WITHDRAWN.

Where Cotton Has Been Burned No Insurance Can Be Had.

New Orleans, La., Jan. 12.—Insurance companies which have placed policies on cotton in warehouses throughout the south are stated to have canceled all policies on cotton in districts where the staple has been burned, even in the smallest quantities. In districts where the farmers have met and discussed the burning of cotton as a means of raising prices, insurance has been raised about 50 per cent.

It is said that there is an agreement among insurance companies, or at least an understanding, to the effect that all of the companies will act in the matter in the same manner.

This action has effectively stopped the burning of cotton in so far as the country merchants and country bankers can have any influence.

Butlers and Valets to Organize.

New York, Jan. 12.—Efforts are being made to organize a union of butlers, valets and second men employed in New York's homes of wealth. It is stated that these statusque gentlemen, while not exactly dissatisfied with their jobs are taking drastic but secret measures to safeguard their professional dignity. There are about 5,000 men in the city eligible to membership. It is proposed by the promoters to furnish legal aid for members, build a club house and establish an employment bureau in which the characters of would-be employers will be carefully scrutinized.

Four Killed by Explosion.

Charlotte, N. C., Jan. 12.—News of the death of three men and a boy as the result of a boiler explosion a few days ago in a remote section of Ashe county, N. C., has been received here. The boiler was used to operate a cotton ginning outfit on the farm of T. N. Blevins, at Blevins' postoffice. Wiley Fowler, Thomas Bluman and John Kelly were instantly killed by the force of the explosion, and a young son of Mr. Blevins received injuries from which he has since died.

His Shortage Was Made Good.

Waycross, Ga., Jan. 12.—Gilbert Meeks, former postmaster at Nichols, who disappeared about a week ago, and who was found to be \$2,304 short in his accounts, has returned home and his shortage has been adjusted by his bondmen. Abe Findley, former postmaster at Douglas, and Dr. Johnson, has just completed rechecking Meeks' accounts and claim that he was only short \$900. The full sum of \$2,304 has been paid over to the government by his bondmen and another inspector has been wired for to check Meeks' accounts again.

WOMAN INSPIRES CREW.

Wife of Captain Stood by Her Husband in Hurricane.

New York, Jan. 12.—The Atlantic Transport liner Minnehaha, which arrived from London yesterday, had among its passengers Captain W. Nelson, his wife and the crew of five men that were rescued from the Maine schooner, W. R. Chester, by the British steamer Anglo-Chillian.

The W. B. Chester left St. Martin's, N. B., for Barbadoes. During the hurricane of Dec. 13 the schooner nearly foundered. When the Anglo-Chillian sighted the vessel the crew had given up all hope of saving their lives. The deck was flush with water, and every sail and rudder were gone.

During the storm Mrs. Nelson won the hearts of the crew by her courage and skill. She labored unceasingly, serving the men with liquor and coffee and taking her place at the pump whenever one dropped exhausted. The plucky woman had learned the art of holding a boat to its course, and frequently relieved her husband at the wheel.

Neither the captain, Mrs. Nelson nor any of the crew was able to save anything from the wreck.

SAILORS GO ON A STRIKE.

Refused to Help Sinking Vessel Unless Paid Extra Money.

San Francisco, Jan. 12.—A strike of sailors when the vessel on which they were employed was in imminent danger of destruction was a novel phase of the labor question brought to the light during the investigation into the disaster of the steamer Lamko.

When it appeared as though she was about to go to pieces Captain John W. Carlson, master of the Lamko ordered the crew to jettison some of the deck load in order to right the vessel. To his astonishment and indignation the sailors went on a strike. They refused to lift a hand unless the captain would agree to pay them overtime. Captain Carlson by the exercise of diplomacy and cajolery succeeded in inducing them to save the vessel and to end the strike.

The crew were all foreigners and there was not an American among them.

Fighting Divorce Law.

Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 12.—It is already evident that questions relative to divorce are going to cut a great figure in the legislature now in session. There is a powerful pressure for an act repealing every divorce law now on the statutes. These laws have opened the door so that there was last year about one divorce to each eight marriages. Most of the laws are special ones, designed to meet particular cases, and some have been lobbied through legislatures, but of course, had to be general, and as numbers of persons would avail themselves of them. This has been the prime cause of trouble. Interviews held with some prominent men of the legislature show how hard the fight will be on the divorce law.

Locating Submarine Mines.

San Francisco, Jan. 12.—The work of locating prisons at the entrance to the harbor for submarine mines has been commenced. It has been decided to establish a switchboard at Point Bonita and from there a cable around the bar and south beach. The location of the second switchboard has not been decided, but it will be at either the Presidio or the Cliff house.

Three Men Washed Overboard.

Vineyard Haven, Mass., Jan. 12.—Captain McLeod, of the 4-masted coal laden schooner Alice M. Colburn, of Bath, Me., which is anchored off Nobska, in Vineyard sound, reported that three of his crew were washed overboard and drowned on Jan. 2, when the schooner was 25 miles southeast of the highlands of Navesink. A fourth sailor was injured.

Sixteen Convicts Killed.

San Francisco, Jan. 12.—News from Manila received today tells of an attempt of 160 convicts at Bulid prison to break jail on Dec. 7. Sixteen of the prisoners were killed and forty wounded. Six of the wounded are not expected to live and twenty-six others are in a critical condition.

ANNUAL MEETING OF COMMISSION MEN

All Big Cities Represented At New Orleans Session.

WELCOME ADDRESS BY MAYOR

The President's Annual Address Suggests a Very Vigorous Fight on the Private Car Lines—President Roosevelt is Highly Praised.

New Orleans, Jan. 12.—The thirteenth annual convention of the National League of Commission Merchants began here today with delegates and their families aggregating between six and seven hundred people. There are large delegations here from Chicago, New York, Boston, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Pittsburg, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Detroit and other cities.

The convention was opened with prayer by Rev. W. T. Palmer, of New Orleans. Mayor Behrman cordially welcomed the visitors and D. W. Longfellow, of Minneapolis, responded.

President Charles B. Ayers, in his annual report discussed very vigorously the question of private car lines. He said:

"We have instituted a fight against one of the most unrelenting and unscrupulous monopolies of the age; a corporation that terrorizes the railroads of our land and even goes so far as to say to the interstate commerce commission, 'Keep your hands off us; you have no right to interfere no matter what our transgressions may be; we are outside the jurisdiction of any court or commission; we are a private car line, and will continue to charge the limit we think the public will stand, and if, perchance, you are not satisfied to pay our toll for the privilege of living, you can let your goods rot, as you must do business with us or quit.'"

"This is what the Armour exclusive contracts mean. The agitation of this matter and the publicity the press of the land has given to the investigation has startled the country and set thinking men to ponder over the conditions as they have been exposed."

Mr. Ayers said the sympathy of the interstate commerce commission was with commission merchants but the commission doubted their power to give relief.

"They can help us if they will," said Mr. Ayers, "and they should be compelled to do so; sufficient pressure should be brought to bear on the commission to convince them that we are thoroughly in earnest, and it is our intention to fight for right until it prevails. If necessary to accomplish this, we must call to our aid the growers of farm products everywhere."

Mr. Ayers highly extolled President Roosevelt.

"In him," he said, "we have a man with whom we can, with confidence, rest our cause, believing that sooner or later he will find the proper means to carry out that policy of reform which was so clearly outlined in his message."

Democrat Likes Roosevelt.

Richmond, Va., Jan. 12.—When the Virginia electoral college met and cast its vote for Parker and Davis, State Senator W. P. Barksdale, an electoral-large, declared if he were free he would not vote for Parker. "I is was safe Democracy," he said "then it was insane. Eighty thousand people went to the polls and voted, while 120,000 resented the insult and management of the campaign by them who, four years ago, turned their faces on Bryan."

New Circuit Unconstitutional.

Montgomery, Ala., Jan. 12.—The supreme court has rendered a decision declaring the act creating the 15th judicial circuit unconstitutional. No decision was rendered in the case of the fourteenth circuit. By this decision the Montgomery circuit court reverts to the second circuit and Chilton, Autauga and Elmore go to the fifth circuit. Judge T. Scott Hayre of the 15th circuit, is without office.